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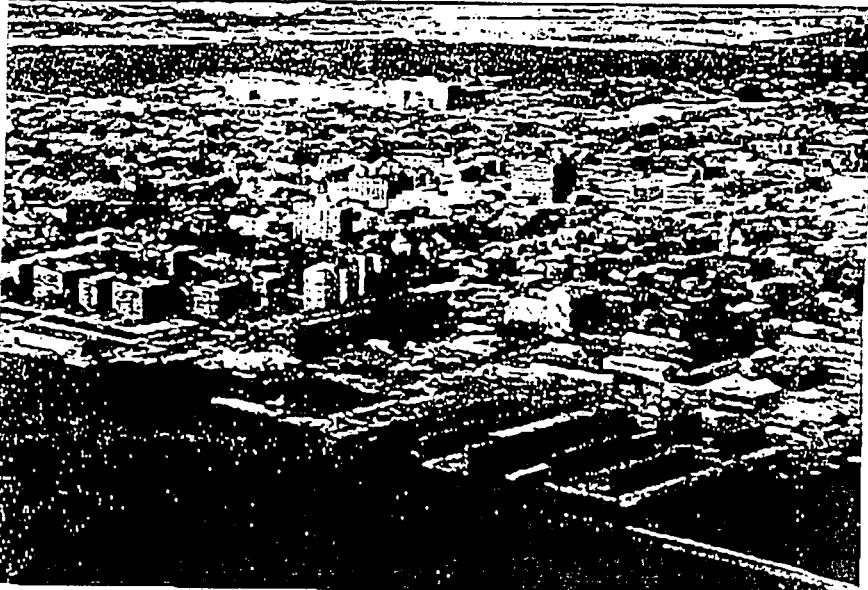
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Harbor to be developed

The Perth Amboy waterfront, at lower left, is the current ferry slip. Development plans bring a hotel, shops, restaurants and homes along the water from left to right in the photo.

If approved by the City Council, the redevelopment project known as Soprisa Village will bring a cultural arts center, marketplace, family residential and office buildings to Perth Amboy.



Vas says Perth Amboy project will spur growth

By CHANDRA M. HAYSLYTT
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Joseph Vas on Monday is reported to unveil a \$600-million waterfront redevelopment proposal, financed by private money, that he says will determine the economic viability of the future of Perth Amboy.

If approved Wednesday by

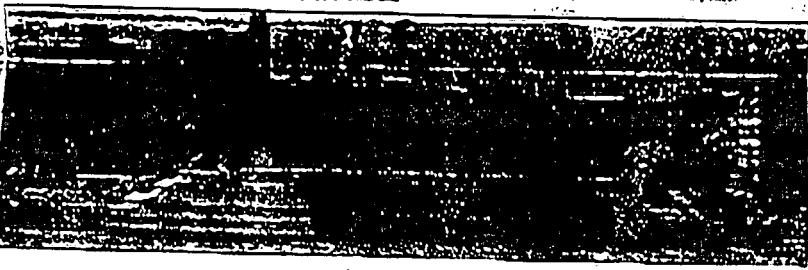
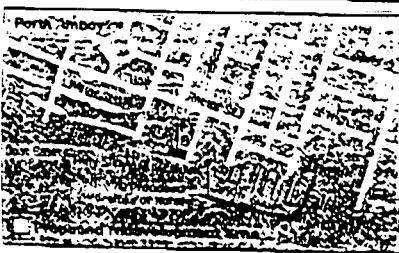
the City Council, the middevelopment initiative, known as Soprisa Village, will bring a cultural arts center, marketplace, low-, mid- and high-rise housing, and one- and two-family housing to Perth Amboy, in addition to a national hotel, a restaurant row, 150 retail spaces and more than 2,000 jobs over the next five to seven years.

Vas is expected, at a Monday news conference at Bear Creek's Lumery, to name the proposed developer for the project and possibly the national-chain hotel planned as part of the redevelopment.

Soprisa Village will span over 49 acres, bordering South Street, Buckingham Avenue and mainly High Street to the Arthur Kill waterfront.

"This redevelopment idea will be the engine that will bring development in the rest of the city," Vas will probably say. "It's \$10 billion invested in Perth Amboy over the next three to five years," because of the proposed plan that originated in 1994, Vas said.

Vas said the proposal will boost the city's tax base because \$300 million will be in new tax revenues that will produce about \$10 million in annual tax revenue for Perth Amboy. By comparison, the city's approved fiscal-year



Part of the Perth Amboy waterfront, as seen from Staten Island yesterday, to be developed under new plans.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. KUCINSKI

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